



The 12th Edition

Volume 5, Issue 9

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Friday, September 12, 2003

News Briefs

CC Call

Twelfth Air Force Commander's call is 2 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Base Theater. For more information, call the CAG at 8-0540.

CFC drive

The 2003 Combined Federal Campaign Drive kicks off with a breakfast Sept. 17 in the Catalina Room at the Officers Club. The drive runs through Oct. 31. The CFC is open to all military members and government civilians. The CFC provides an opportunity to donate to a variety of base, local, state and national charities. Donations can be made either as cash or payroll deductions. For more information, contact a unit CFC representative.

Use or Lose Leave

Individuals who are in use or lose leave status are encouraged to take their leave before the end of the fiscal year. However, airmen who were unable to take leave because they were supporting contingency operations will be allowed to accumulate more than 60 days of annual leave after the fiscal year ends. Those affected can retain up to 90 days of leave until the end of fiscal 2004. Those who meet the criteria for having excess leave should apply for special leave accrual through command channels. For more information, contact the military personnel flight.

Got a story idea?

Does your workcenter have a new mission or some hi-tech equipment? Has someone in your unit recently participated in a major sports event or have a unique hobby, call 12th Air Force Public Affairs at 228-6053.

RAFC promotes combined efforts

More than 50 delegates, 18 countries discuss counterdrug operations

1st Lt. Sarah Schwenesen
12th Air Force Public Affairs

"We are at war," said Dr. Barry D. Crane, the deputy director of the Office of Supply Reduction at the National Drug Control Policy Office, during his opening remarks at the Regional Air Forces Counterdrug (RAFC) Conference Aug 18 - 22 in Key West, Fla.

This year's conference brought together more than 50 delegates from 18 countries in Latin America to discuss cooperation in the war against drugs. The week-long conference provided time for the delegates to educate each other on the issues their individual countries face, to conduct meetings between countries within the region, and to look at opportunities for success.

"Counterdrug operations are serious business. The president expects results and a lot of people are counting on us," said Dr. Crane.

Those expectations encourage the United States and Latin America to work together on counterdrug operations.

"The spirit of cooperation is what brings us together this week," said Brig. Gen. Mark Stearns, Twelfth Air Force Vice Commander and the conference host. "We can share our successes, challenges



1st Lt. Sarah Schwenesen

(Right) Brig. Gen. Mark Stearns, 12 Air Force Vice Commander, along with regional air chiefs and Dr. Robert Crane, deputy director of the office of Supply Reduction, National Drug Control Policy Office (left), at the Regional Air Forces Counterdrug Conference Aug 18-22 in Key West, Fla.

and limitations; and also speak about new ideas of cooperation among the countries and issues facing the region."

As a result of that cooperating spirit and the efforts to capitalize on past successes in the counterdrug war, AIR BRIDGE DENIAL operations in Colombia will resume. AIR BRIDGE DENIAL is a key factor in denying drug traffickers the opportunity to deliver their dangerous cargo to outside countries.

"[AIR BRIDGE DENIAL] reminds us to work together. We must strive for co-operation and deeper understanding, to

preclude criminals from exploiting our differences. Many good people have dedicated their lives to fighting this grave threat. It is going to be tough, but we can do it. Our past successes prove this," said Dr. Crane.

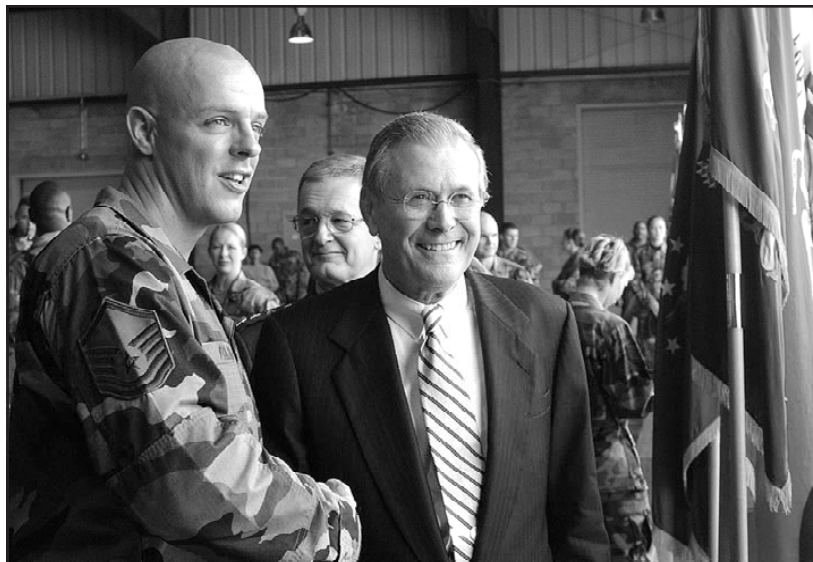
"We must continue to foster the strong relationships that we share with our southern neighbors and cooperate to counter illicit drugs," said Brig. Gen. Stearns.

One of the delegates echoed this sentiment.

"Yes, we have advanced through working together," said Col. Manuel Caceres, Honduran air force Commander. "In addition to working with the United States, the Latin

American countries also have a regional conference to work on common problems our air forces can work together on, such as humanitarian relief, disasters and counterdrug."

"This conference is key to continuing our counter illicit trafficking efforts from a regional perspective and to ensure the air forces throughout the Americas are as effective and efficient as possible," added Brig. Gen. Stearns. "We will continue to apply our expertise where we can to reduce this scourge and the flow of illicit drugs into the U.S."



SECDEF visits Honduras

Master Sgt. Gene Folsom, 612th Air Base Squadron Logistics Flight superintendent, greets Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, during the SECDEF's visit to Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, on Aug. 20. While in Honduras, Mr. Rumsfeld spoke to military members about the importance of Soto Cano to regional stability. His visit to the country included a stop at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa to meet with the President of Honduras.

Courtesy Photo



TSgt Alfred S. Moore Jr.

Community donations

Lt. Col. Rob Huber, 429th Expeditionary Operations Squadron commander at Forward Operating Location Curacao, turns over two buses and a breadtruck to Verriet Institute and Sedreko, two children's charities, during a ceremony Sept. 3. The vehicles were donated after they had become outdated for the needs of FOL Curacao. The U.S. Consul General worked the legal aspects of turnover in coordination with DynCorp and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

Around USSOUTHAF



Courtesy Photo

Key to the air

Lt. Col. Rob Huber, 429th Expeditionary Operations Squadron commander at Forward Operating Location Curacao, hands the "key" to the brand new taxiway to Mr. Etienne van der Horst, Deputy General Manager Curacao Airport Partners, following the Sept. 2 completion of the new taxiway MILCON project at the Curacao Airport.



The 12th Edition

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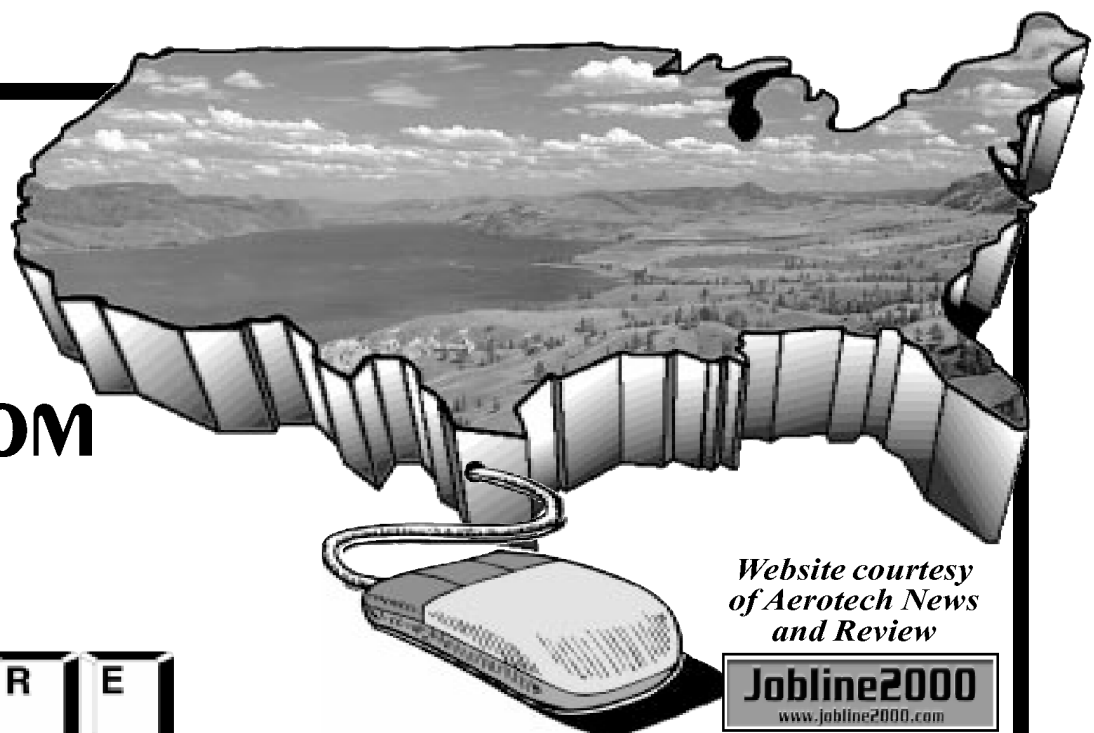
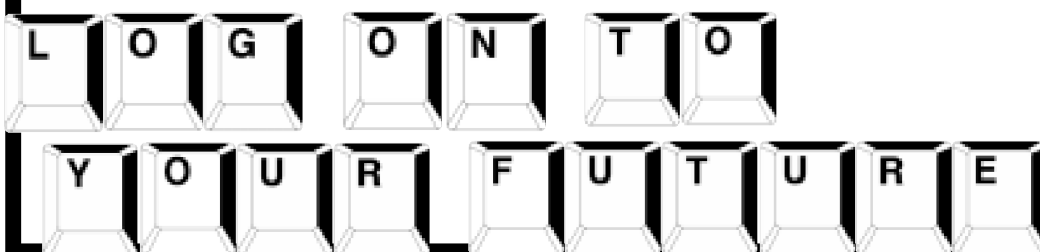
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SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated.



Senior Airman

Chad Faria
Anthony Flores
Latanceia Godfrey
John Keating
Matthew Wavrin

Promotees

Master Sgt

William Garlington
Timothy Pearson
Larry Rodgers



First Lieutenant

Brian Butler
Jon Schiefelbein

Captain

Douglas Carter



Lieutenant Colonel

Paul Francis

New Commander

Name/Rank: Lt. Col. Daniel R. Fernandez
Unit: 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron, Forward Operating Location Manta, Ecuador

Duty title/Job responsibilities: Commands geographically separate unit providing full spectrum base support for up to eight USAF, USN, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Coast Guard aircraft and 475 personnel in support of Joint Inter-agency Task Force – South counterdrug operations. Responsible for the leadership, discipline, management and administration of the Forward Operating Location Manta, Ecuador, comprised of over 200 military and contractor personnel and oversight of operations, maintenance, fire department, billeting and dining facilities and \$8M ground equipment/vehicle fleet and a Base Operations Support contract



valued over \$21M. Serves as principal liaison with host nation installation authority in close cooperation with the US Ambassador, US Military Group, USSOUTHCOM and USSOUTHAF.

Hometown: Born in Montevideo, Uruguay, now calls Albuquerque, N.M. home.

Family: Wife, Irene; step-son, Matthew; step-daughter, Sara.

Leadership philosophy: Give your people the right tools and remove obstacles, then get out of their way, they will excel for you, then reward them for a job well done!

Favorite assignment until now – why? I have been blessed with always having the best job in the Air Force. Each assignment has been exciting, challenging and memorable.

Top of the 12th

Amn Banesa Plancarte is a Workgroup Manager in the 612th Combat Plans Squadron.

Years of service: 1 year, 4 months

Hometown: Compton, Calif.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: ADPE Custodian, STU III Responsible Officer, Personnel Records.



Amn Plancarte

“Amn Plancarte is an amazing young airman who it has been a honor and pleasure to work with. She has been dealt numerous cards in the past year that most senior to her in grade would not have been able to cope with or handle,” said Lt. Col. Donald Summerlin, 612 CPS Director of Operations.

“Amn Plancarte has single-handedly provided Information/Workgroup Management support to 70 personnel within the 612 CPS. Receiving minimal supervision, training, and mentoring, Amn Plancarte has blossomed into an outstanding information manager and will continue to excel. This young airman is motivated, dedicated to her duty, and accomplished high levels of excellence in the 612 CPS.”

Favorite aspects of D-M: Beautiful scenery and great people, everyone I have met at this base has lent me a helping hand and made me feel right at home.

If you could change one thing to improve D-M, what would it be? I would add green grass; the base looks really depressing at times, or maybe I just can't get used to the desert.

What motivates your winning attitude? What motivates me to succeed is that I know there is always someone out there that believes and has hope in me and that I can't let down.



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